

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1           1. (Currently Amended) A method of self-aligning connections for a two section mast,

2 which method comprises:

3           transporting an elongated bottom mast section to a guide frame adjacent to a well site,

4 said bottom mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs so that said bottom mast

5 section is in a substantially horizontal orientation;

6           transporting an elongated top mast section to said well site so that said top mast

7 section is in a substantially horizontal orientation and so that said mast sections are aligned, said top

8 mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs;

9           positioning said legs of said bottom mast section slightly below a level of said legs

10 of said top mast section; and

11           raising said bottom mast section in order to engage said top mast section while; and

12           simultaneously engaging and aligning the mast sections together in the final

13 connecting orientation.

1           2. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said

2 bottom mast section is raised by cylinders on mast stands.

1           3. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said

2 cylinders are powered by a rig hydraulic system.

1           4. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       legs of said bottom mast section are positioned slightly below a level of said legs of said top mast  
3       section by lowering said bottom mast section before said raising step.

1           5. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 including  
2       the additional step of pinning said top mast section to said bottom mast section.

1           6. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       bottom mast section and said top mast section are each transported on a vehicle in a horizontal  
3       orientation prior to a vertical use orientation.

1           7. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       legs of said bottom mast section are positioned by cylinders on said mast stands.

1           8. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       pair of top mast front legs each include a pair of protruding circular plates which engage and align  
3       with said pair of bottom mast front legs which each include an alignment jaw with a pair of hooks.

1           9. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       pair of top mast rear legs each include a jaw with a shoulder which engage and align with said pair  
3       of bottom mast rear legs which each include a jaw with protruding semi-circular plates.

1           10. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 9 wherein  
2       each said shoulder includes a radial face to receive said circular plates.

1           11. (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       steps are performed in reverse order to disassemble said two section mast.

1           12. (Currently Amended) A two section mast with self-aligning connections, which mast  
2       comprises:

3                 an elongated bottom mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs  
4       arranged in a substantially horizontal arrangement;

5                 an elongated top mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs  
6       arranged in a substantially horizontal arrangement;

7                 a self-aligning connection between said mast sections wherein said pair of top mast  
8       front legs each include a pair of protruding circular plates, each said pair of plates engage and align  
9       with a jaw with a pair of hooks extending from each said bottom mast front leg and wherein said pair  
10      of top mast rear legs each include a jaw with a shoulder, each said jaw engaging and aligning with  
11      a jaw with protruding semi-circular plates extending from each bottom mast rear leg; and

12                 at least one hydraulic cylinder on a mast stand to move said legs of said bottom  
13       section from a position slightly below a level of said legs of said top mast section to an engaged  
14       position in which the mast sections are in the final connecting orientation.

1           13. (Canceled)

1           14. (Original) A two section mast as set forth in Claim 12 including a pin passing  
2 through each said jaw of said bottom mast front legs and through each said pair of protruding  
3 circular plates of said top mast front legs.

1           15. (Original) A two section mast as set forth in Claim 12 including a pin passing  
2 through each said jaw with a shoulder of said top mast rear legs and through each said jaw with  
3 protruding semi-circular plates of said bottom mast rear legs.